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# ENG 1001G-045: Composition and Language

Donna Binns  
*Eastern Illinois University*

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**English 1001G: Composition & Language**

Instructor: Donna Binns  
Office: 3851 Coleman Hall  
Phone: 581-6299

e-mail: cfdjb@eiu.edu  
Hours: TBA

**Course Description:** This course focuses on the reading and writing of analyses and arguments. Attention is given to effective expression, clear structure, adequate development, and documentation of sources.

**Course Objectives:** Students should receive instruction that enables them:

1. To write analysis and argument papers in which paragraphs, sentences, and words develop a central idea. These papers should reflect an understanding and a command of recursive writing processes: generating and prewriting strategies for formulating a thesis, methods for planning and drafting a paper, strategies of revising for clarity and adequate development, and means for polishing and editing. These papers should demonstrate consideration and employment of effective methods of organization.
2. To write focused, adequately developed paragraphs and sentences in standard written English that are direct, economical, free of ambiguity, structurally appropriate for the ideas expressed, and suitable to the purpose of the text.
3. To develop the ability to evaluate and criticize their own and their peers' writing.
4. To develop the ability to understand and evaluate diverse course materials.

**Texts and Materials:**

*Beyond Words: Reading and Writing in a Visual Age*

*Easy Writer*

*The World Is a Text: Writing, Reading, and Thinking about Culture and Its Contexts*

USB Storage Device

**Course Requirements:**

**Reading:** We will discuss reading assignments on the day they are listed on the course calendar. Set aside enough time to read, analyze, think about, and re-read if necessary each assignment. Look up unfamiliar words before coming to class. Prepare yourself to contribute to class and group discussions.

**Writing:** Students must complete three essays and one final project in order to be eligible to pass this course. Frequent in-class and out-of-class writing activities will also be assigned as part of our daily work. In-class writing must be completed during the allotted time in class, so promptness and consistent attendance are crucial. Out-of-class writing, including essays, must be printed prior to class. **Computer Lab printers are for in-class activities only.**

**Daily Work & Participation:** In addition to in-class writing activities, there will be a substantial amount of daily work (such as peer response, homework, response papers, in-class writing, and group work) during the semester. Group activities, including peer response, can only be completed during the allotted time in class, so they may not be made up at a later date (even for an excused absence). Homework is due at the beginning of class. Class participation also factors into the overall daily work grade. Each week, I assign a participation grade worth a maximum of five points. Lack of participation in class or group activities and discussions, failure to bring appropriate materials (such as texts) to class, and/or chronic tardiness will result in the loss of some or all of those weekly participation points. **It is the student's responsibility to make sure that all work is turned in promptly.**

**Attendance:** Because discussion and peer response are important components of this course, attendance is vital. Four unexcused absences will be tolerated (as indicated above, however, some in-class work cannot be made up at a later date); the fifth will lower your daily work/participation grade by one letter; the sixth will lower your daily work/participation grade by two letters; the seventh will lower your course grade by three letters; and the eighth will result in failing the course. Perfect attendance merits the addition of 20 extra-credit points to the daily work point total (not the percentage). Anyone arriving at class more than fifteen minutes late will be counted absent. Missing one class does not excuse you for failing to prepare for the next. Absent students will be responsible for finding out what material was covered and what assignments were made in class. For an absence to be excused, bring proper verification (written documentation approved by me) for illness or emergency.

**Grading:**

The breakdown for graded work is as follows:

Three Essays:	60% (20% each)
Final Project:	20%
Daily Work:	20%

A= 90% to 100%

B= 80% to 89%

C= 70% to 79%

NC= 0% to 69%

**Late Work:** Late work that is not excused before its due date will be penalized by 10% of the maximum possible points for each day it is late (excluding weekend days). All assignments must be completed within one week of the original due date. Assignments, including essays and drafts, are due at the beginning of class. Work turned in after the beginning of class may be penalized by up to 10% of the maximum possible points. Computer and printer problems are not an excuse for turning in late work, so draft and print well in advance.

**Conferences:** Because this course emphasizes writing and revision, we have a set of mandatory conferences. Instead of meeting as a group on those class days, students will meet with me individually to discuss their writing. Since the conferences replace class meetings, missing a conference counts as an absence. In addition, students are always welcome to meet with me individually during office hours.

**Plagiarism:** In accordance with English Department and University policies, “Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—‘The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation as one’s original work’ (*Random House Dictionary of the English Language*)—has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty up to and including immediate assignment of the grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.”

The best argument against plagiarism is that you cheat yourself out of the education you are here to obtain when you copy someone else’s work. If you believe that a specific instance in your writing might constitute plagiarism, please consult me prior to turning in the final draft.

### English 1001: Course Calendar (Fall 2008)

This schedule is subject to additions and changes at my discretion. Assignments are due on the date that they are listed on the schedule. Some reading material will be available on e-reserve.

- 8-25 Course Introduction
- 8-27 *Easy Writer* "Twenty Most Common Errors" and Sections 1-3 (pages 1-34 in 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.)
  
- 9-3 *Beyond Words* "Prelude" (1-14); "What High School Is" (Booth Library e-reserve); Response Paper Due to "What High School Is"
  
- 9-8 *Beyond Words* Chapter 1 (15-46); *Easy Writer* Sections 38-41 (168-94)
- 9-10 *Beyond Words* Chapter 2 Pages 47-59; "The Seven-Lesson Schoolteacher" (Library e-reserve); Response Paper Due to "The Seven-Lesson Schoolteacher"
  
- 9-15 **Essay #1 Draft Due for Peer Response**
- 9-17 **Essay #1 Due**; *Beyond Words* Chapter 2 Pages 60-72
  
- 9-22 *Beyond Words* Chapter 3 pages 76-122; *The World Is a Text* Introduction (1-18)
- 9-24 *The World Is a Text* Pages 19-61
  
- 9-29 *Beyond Words* Chapter 4 pages 162-98 and 217-27
- 10-1 *The World Is a Text* Chapter 2 Pages 106-41; Response Paper Due
  
- 10-6 *The World Is a Text* Chapter 2 Pages 142-86
- 10-8 *Beyond Words* Chapter 5 Pages 248-313
  
- 10-13 **Essay #2 Draft Due for Peer Response**
- 10-15 **Essay #2 Due**; *The World Is a Text* Chapter 4 Pages 233-38 and 251-76
  
- 10-20 *Beyond Words* Chapter 6 Pages 332-63; *The World Is a Text* Chapter 4 Pages 286-305
- 10-22 *Beyond Words* Chapter 6 Pages 364-90; *The World Is a Text* Chapter 5 Pages 308-45
  
- 10-27 *The World Is a Text* Chapter 6 Pages 396-447
- 10-29 *Beyond Words* Chapter 7 Pages 406-479; Response Paper Due
  
- 11-3 *Beyond Words* Chapter 8 Pages 518-63
- 11-5 *The World Is a Text* Chapter 10 (628-84)
  
- 11-10 **Essay #3 Draft Due for Peer Response**
- 11-12 **Essay #3 Due**
  
- 11-17 *The World Is a Text* Chapter 8 (537-88)
- 11-19 *The World Is a Text* Chapter 11 (686-725)
  
- 12-1 NO CLASS—Required Conferences
- 12-3 NO CLASS—Required Conferences
  
- 12-8 **Final Project Essay and Self Analysis Drafts Due for Peer Response**
- 12-10 **Final Project Due**

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability and want to receive appropriate accommodations, contact the Coordinator of the Office of Student Disability Services (581-6583).

**Writing Center:** Most colleges and universities have a have a writing center, a place for students to talk about their writing with trained tutors. The Eastern Illinois University Writing Center is located in 3110 Coleman Hall. Students are encouraged to make an appointment to work with a tutor.

When you visit, bring your work in progress (including a copy of the assignment) and an idea of what you would like to work on—planning, prewriting, organization, support, documentation, editing, etc. Please check the Writing Center Website at [[www.eiu.edu/~writing/](http://www.eiu.edu/~writing/)] for more information.

**Electronic Writing Portfolio:** EIU students will submit a sample of their best writing from a writing-centered or writing-intensive course for the Electronic Writing Portfolio. The first essay comes from either 1001G or 1002G (or the honors equivalent of those courses). Instructors assess each sample according to a rubric. These forms and further information about the Electronic Writing Portfolio are available at [<http://www.eiu.edu/~assess>]. If you wish to submit an essay from 1001G, you must submit it during the course of this semester or the following semester.